

**Amendments to the Claims:**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

1. (Original) A method of delinting cotton seed, the method including the step of mixing the cotton seed with abrasive particles.
2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the mixing involves propelling and bringing the cotton seed and abrasive particles into high-speed contact with each other.
3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2 ~~claim 1 or 2~~, wherein the cotton seed and abrasive particles are brought into high-speed contact with each other by mechanical means.
4. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the mechanical means is a mixer.
5. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the mixer is run at speed from 50rpm to 1000rpm.
6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein the mixer is run at speed from 200rpm to 1000rpm.
7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2 ~~claim 1 or 2~~, wherein the cotton seed and abrasive particles are brought into high-speed contact with each other through the use of high-speed air.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the high-speed air is blown onto the cotton seed and abrasive particles at a pressure of from 0.5 bar to 2 bar ( $0.5 \times 10^5 \text{Pa}$  to  $2 \times 10^5 \text{Pa}$ ).

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the high-speed air is blown onto the cotton seed and abrasive particles at a pressure of 1 bar ( $1 \times 10^5 \text{Pa}$ ).

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the abrasive particles have a mean diameter of from 0.1 mm to 2 mm.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the abrasive particles are calcium carbonate, glass, diatomaceous earth, sugar and/or sand.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the abrasive particles are sea sand or river sand.

13. (Original) An apparatus for delinting cotton seed, the apparatus comprising a vessel including a cylindrical inside wall and means for introducing compressed air into the vessel tangentially relative to the inside wall.